

REMARKS

Claims 21-27 and 29-49 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 28 is cancelled and claim 21 is amended.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 21 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Forrest et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,707,745); claims 22, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Forrest; claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Forrest in view of Nakayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,847,506); claims 24, 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Forrest in view of Shioya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,091,382); claims 30, 31, 33-35, 38, 40, 41 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,185,712) in view of Shioya; claims 32, 36, 37, 39, 42, 43 and 45-48 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato in view of Shioya, and further in view of Forrest; and claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Forrest in view of Shioya, and further in view of Sato.

Forrest, whether alone or in combination with the other applied references, does not disclose or suggest a light source in which, inter alia, P is a distance between adjacent organic electroluminescent elements and D is a distance between each organic electroluminescent element and a display surface of the display element, and a relationship between D and P is such that D is 10 times P or more.

The Office Action asserts that it is inherent that D would be 10 times P or more in the combined display device of Forrest, Shioya and Sato. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that Fig. 8 of Sato shows a several centimeter gap between display element 110 and light

sources 118R, 118G and 118B, and Fig. 2B of Forrest shows a gap between each light emitting element 20, 21 and 22, and concludes that the gap in Fig. 8 of Sato is several magnitudes in excess of the gap in Forrest, even if Fig. 8 was not drawn to scale. However, there is no support for such a conclusion in either Forrest or Sato. Sato merely shows a gap between display element 110 and the light sources, and does not even suggest the size of the gap in relation to the distance between adjacent light emitting elements.

Further, making D 10 times P or more provides significant advantages. For example, the relationship between P and D allows for clearly copying an image that is shown on a display even when using a plurality of organic EL elements. None of the applied references address or even recognize such an advantage.

The Office Action also asserts that the features of claims 27 and 29 are obvious in light of the teaching of Shioya. However, Shioya discloses a structure constituted by two sets of organic EL elements, in which electrical resistance of an optical conductive film contacting another organic EL element changes, and light emission of the organic EL element is controlled by the change in the electrical resistance. Therefore, conversion in Shioya is as follows: light → electricity → light. In contrast, in the claimed invention, light is optically controlled by a display which is spatially distant, so there is a conversion of light to light. Further, according to the structure of Shioya, the respective elements are spatially attached to the display, which is different from the claimed invention.

Regarding independent claims 30, 34, 40, 46 and 47, none of the applied references disclose a pulse current being applied to the organic electroluminescent element to cause light emission. The Office Action asserts that Shioya discloses this feature. However, Shioya merely discloses a drive voltage pulse used in a drive control method for a display device.

With respect to claims 34 and 40, Sato is cited, but the light source for the liquid crystal display according to Sato uses an ordinary bulb. The use of an organic EL element

would not be obvious from the teaching of the use of an ordinary bulb. Therefore, Sato's display element using a liquid crystal in an optical system is completely different from the claimed invention in which an organic EL element is used as a light source.

Further, Forrest discloses organic EL elements that are vertically laminated (in a vertical direction). In contrast, organic EL elements according to the present invention are horizontally aligned on the same substrate and light is simultaneously emitted (usually, elements (pixels) which are horizontally aligned do not simultaneously emit light because various images need to be output, and pixels are needed to be lit sequentially, so light cannot be simultaneously emitted).

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21, 30, 34, 40, 46 and 47 are patentable over the applied references. The dependent claims are likewise patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 be withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

21. (Amended) A light source, comprising:

a plurality of organic electroluminescent elements arrayed on a same substrate,
the plurality of organic electroluminescent elements emitting light simultaneously, P being a
distance between adjacent organic electroluminescent elements and D being a distance
between each organic electroluminescent element and a display surface of a display element,
and a relationship between D and P being such that D is 10 times P or more.